



State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Committee on Curriculum

Minutes for November 16 Meeting

324 Bray Hall, 11:00 am

Voting members present: Liu, Schulz, Hoffman, Stavenhagen, Tao, Teece, Shannon (for Wheeler),
Anagnost (for Liu), Smith (for Owens)

Guests: Spuches, Minard, Tochelli, Gilbert, Frank, Endreny, Gerber

- 1) **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 11:01 a.m.
- 2) **Approval of Minutes from October 26, 2017.** The minutes from October 26, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved.
- 3) **Announcements**
 - i. Proposals posted for CoC and faculty review

Master of Engineering in Environmental Resources Engineering
Endreny is proposing this program because there has been a debate in the professional engineering societies about the need for an additional 30 hours of experience for those seeking licensure. We would like to be in a position to offer a fast-track graduate degree as more professional engineers are looking for an advanced degree.
Hoffman asked, what is the audience? Would you be able to offer online or evening courses to allow for practitioners to enroll? Gerber explained the target will be students straight out of undergrad (must have a degree in engineering) or possibly those who have been working less than 2 years. The fast track is in line with other MEng programs, but would make it difficult to work full-time and enroll in the program full-time. There could be some potential flexibility on the hours. Endreny suggested there is a possibility that we could explore online “teaser” courses, to attract more students. Eventually we would hope to offer more of the program online, potentially even fully online.
Stavenhagen pointed out that Cornell’s MEng program offers financial aid packages to 30% of their students, including GAs and partial scholarships, where we do not anticipate offering any. If they already have financial burden from undergrad, this may be prohibitive. Endreny said that as a professional advancement program, financial aid would not be a main recruitment point. If that does not appear to be working after the initial 3 years we would have to rethink that approach.
Schulz asked about whether or not this would compete with the MPS population in the department. Endreny said that it shouldn’t impact it greatly

because for the few MPS students they have, they generally do not have an undergraduate degree in the field. It shouldn't draw away too much from MS or PhD programs. Shannon also discussed that this program is intended as a revenue generator and MS and PhD students on funding do not offer that, so even if we lost some students to the MEng, it wouldn't be bad from the administration's perspective. We also aren't necessarily targeting the same population as Cornell because of our SUNY rates and they have more working professionals enrolled. Schulz said we may want to make an upfront policy about students in MS and PhD programs not being allowed to switch to MEng so they don't end up getting a free degree.

There was conversation regarding issues with the mentorship class and its setup and whether or not we needed to approve those courses before we approve the program. It was decided that we can move ahead because the individual courses will have to go through the approval process as well and issues with them can be addressed at that time.

Motion to table- fails

Motion to vote- 4 yay, 3 nay, 1 abstention

Proposal passes

Next steps after Academic Governance approval would be to request an amendment to the college master plan to offer the MEng degree title.

ii. Proposals submitted for CoC completeness review

Bioprocess Engineering (MPS, MS, PhD) - new from existing

Biomaterials Engineering (MS, PhD)-new from existing

Paper Science and Engineering (MPS, MS, PhD)-new from existing

Sustainable Engineering Management (MPS)-new from existing

Wood Science (MPS, MS, PhD)-new from existing

Minor in Environmental Policy and Communication- new

ERE 897- Professional Experience- new

ERE 697- Intro Eng Proj Mgmt- new

ERE 698- Principles & Practices of Eng. Project Mgmt- new

ERE 699- Eng Planning & Design- new

4) Updates from the Dean (Shannon)

Shannon has been working on SUNY forms for the PBE grad program changes. There is movement in SUNY to make it easier to make these kind of changes from existing option areas to programs, as long as there are not significant changes made to the requirements. It is easier to get the program approved and change the curriculum later.

5) Old Business

6) New Business

- i. Spuches- AG meeting- SUNY senator brought up micro-credentials. CoC is the home-base for this (from SUNY Faculty Governance). We should share this report and progress to this committee so we can understand what our role is. These can be "badges" that are earned through mastering certain skills within classes. It can also be a motivator for

students and can demonstrate to employers what skills you have. These can be valuable for non-credit or certificate programs. For someone who took a non-credit 4-day course, for example, and then wanted to earn credit by using their micro-credentials after the fact, we would want to look at that and what implications it has.

Hoffman- If we were to do that, we should limit the number of these that would be allowed for a degree program, so that people don't take advantage.

7) Continuing Business

Shared resource courses (Teece) – We were discussing the issue before of whether or not grad students can take UG courses and have them count towards their degree program. We came to the conclusion that they can take them, but they can't count towards their grad credits. Electives for UG can be grad courses, but we cannot require a grad course for UG students. Teece suggests that all shared resource courses be listed as 500 for future proposals and not to retroactively change the current shared courses. Only cross-listing when a course is required for undergraduates. There should only be 400/500 splits because there should not be a two-level drop for a course (400/600). There can be minor changes to make the work load slightly lighter for UGs.

Schulz- EFB may have issues with numbering on 300/500 if we have to fix things retroactively.

Shannon- If we decide to go through and change the existing courses, we can probably develop a system with administrative approvals to allow for the renumbering rather than making faculty submit all new paperwork.

Minard- The important thing with this, is that the Registrar needs to know which class is being deactivated and which will remain, or if there is a new course number.

UPDATE: Per the email discussion on this topic, the new proposal is that all courses 0-499 are exclusively undergraduate courses. 500-599 are for either undergraduates or graduates. These courses would have the same requirements for either level. We need to change the current policy on 500-level courses to reflect this. 600-699 is specifically geared to grad students, undergrads with 3.0 or higher may enroll with instructor permission and a petition. Again, these courses would not have different learning outcomes for grad/undergrad. 700-999 strictly for grad students. This would eliminate shared resource courses altogether. In an instance of a 300/500 split, the 300-level would be deactivated. 400/600 would have to be re-numbered as a 500. There is no way for a graduate student to take any course 0-499 to count toward their graduate degree credits.

Take this idea back to your department, bring back comments for discussion so we can write a policy.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:35 PM